

Member who was himself a Minister in this Department. I would not give him off hand information. I will find out

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I do not claim more knowledge than the Minister but not less than him.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : You are a knowledgeable person. I know it. Certainly. This is my view.

I have been told that at the Bhagalpur plant, about 100 tonnes of tomatoes have been processed.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : This parity is welcome.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : And this parity in between also.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : So far as this project is concerned, I welcome the hon. Member, I am prepared to sit and discuss with me.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I welcome this offer of sitting with him.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Do not take away Haryana.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : I agree with the hon. Minister's reply about the feasibility report. But I would like to know, whether, when this feasibility report was prepared and the officials studied the facts, and later when they considered that it was not possible, has any action been taken against those officers, who said first it was feasible and later that it was not economical? What action has the Minister taken?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : I have not taken any action, nor do I contemplate taking any action on the ground if certain officers prepare a feasibility report at one time and consider it feasible and after some time they come to a conclusion that it is not feasible. Let me make it clear that neither any officer is nor the Ministry are — biased against this project. If we start taking action against officers, then it will discourage. *(Interruption)*

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : You have not understood.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : It has happened that sometimes we had prepared a project at a certain estimated cost and later on for various reasons the cost has gone up. The point is that when the final report was prepared the conclusion was that this was not economically feasible. Now, for that should I punish them? No.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PREMALABAI CHAVAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, will the hon. Minister kindly state whether in Maharashtra also.....

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No Maharashtra.

(Interruption)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Both are in India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Both are in India but he has already stated that he has prepared for Haryana only.

[Translation]

SHRI D. P. YADAVA : Will the hon. Minister kindly state as to what are the prevailing rates of tomatoes in Bhagalpur, Santhal Pargana etc. *(Interruptions)* and what is the rate in Delhi and in its neighbourhood? You have made provisions for installing a plant there. *(Interruption)*

[English]

This is a very important issue. In view of the fact that the potentiality of processing vegetables and fruits in that area is immense, will the Minister take initiative in this regard?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Not relevant next question.

Setting up of Bottling Plants by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

*372. **SHRI SOMNATH RATH :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated cost and capacity of each bottling plant being set up by the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited in different parts of the country;

(b) whether any foreign collaboration will be involved therein; and

(c) if so, its details ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) The requisite information in respect of bottling plants being set up by BPCL under the LPG phase III project is given in the statement given below.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Location with State	Capacity MTPA	Estimated cost Rupees (in crores)
1. Uran (Maharashtra)	75,000	36.35
2. Asaoti/Pyala (Haryana)	75,000	27.59
3. Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh)	25,000	15.91
4. Sholapur (Maharashtra)	12,500	7.13
5. Jalgaon (Maharashtra)	12,500	7.23
6. Lalru Ambala (Haryana)	25,000	18.54
7. Trivandrum (Kerala)	12,500	8.10
8. Tuticorin (Tamil Nadu)	12,500	3.25
9. Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)	6,500	3.24
10. Hissar (Haryana)	6,500	3.46
11. Khurda (Orissa)	6,500	3.24
12. Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh)	6,500	1.99

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : I would like to know from the hon. Minister at what stage these bottling units stand and whether any unit has reached the maximum capacity of production ? Which are the agencies funding these units ? Which is the supervising agency to check whether these units are properly funded and money properly utilised ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : These units are being set up by different companies in the country. BPCL is one agency. The other agencies are IOC and HPC. So, in the country various bottling plants have been set up by these companies. They are responsible for seeing that they are properly implemented and they function properly. As I said, no foreign collaboration is

involved. Therefore, there is no question of spending any foreign exchange.

SHRI SOMNATA RATH : I asked about funding.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Funding is to be done by them.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : My question is whether there is any agency to supervise that these units are properly funded and money properly utilised. Has any of these units reached the maximum capacity of production ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : These units are to be implemented by these companies and they have to be funded by these companies. According to our information, all these units have been set up and are at different stages of production.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : The hon. Minister has not answered to my satisfaction whether any unit has reached the maximum capacity of production. My second question is, for the unit at Khurda in Orissa, which is the firm which has taken up the construction of this unit; whether it is in the private or public sector, what amount has been funded to this unit and at what stage it stands ? Is there any time limit fixed for starting the production ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : As far as Khurda unit is concerned, it is being implemented by the BPCL. It is estimated to be completed by March, 1988. Now to whom they have given sub-contract for construction, digging and other things, it is for the BPCL to say. I have not enquired about it.

SHRI LALITESHWAR SHAHI : Sir, in view of the fact that we are surplus in gas as well as in cylinder production in the country and the whole thing is held up for want of bottling plants, what steps has the Government taken to see that these plants come up in due time and what is the stage of construction at Piola bottling plant where sub-standard material is being used and inexperienced engineers have been employed ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Sir, I do not know about the specific plant for which the question is being asked, but in the country effort is being made to set up adequate capacity of bottling plants. I have already stated that in nearly 42 places, in the country we are setting up these plants with capacities varying from 75,000 to 5000 MTPA. We hope that this should meet the requirement of the country.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you know, the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir remains cut off from the rest of the country for over six months in a year. At present the Indian Oil Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum are distributing LPG through two agencies. Keeping in view blockade of the road, these dealers are not booking more than 2,500 connections each. Because of the problem of stocking of cylinders for six months in that region. As you know, Sir, Ladakh has very extreme cold climatic condition and we have got a great shortage of fuel. One kilogram of coal costs Rs three in Leh. So, in the light of this may I know from the hon. Minister, whether the Government will direct either of the two companies to set up a bottling plant in that region so that the problem of stocking of the cylinders is overcome because these dealers are not in a position to stock more than 30,000 to 40,000 cylinders for the six winter months ? Both the dealers taken together are required to stock 70,000 to 80,000 cylinders which they cannot do because of the financial problem. So, I would like to know whether the Government will consider setting up a bottling plant in that region.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Sir I entirely agree that the problem of these remote regions is very acute and very important because they need fuel and for them fuel in any other form is very costly. We will definitely examine this question. If it is economically feasible, even if it costs a little more, we will definitely consider setting up of such a plant to ease the situation in that region.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, just now we were

discussing remote areas. But in Bihar in the absence of a bottling plant, supply is not adequate and people have to wait for as many as 6 months or more to get their refills. In this connection, I had asked earlier also as to what action is being taken in this regard. So, now I want to ask the hon. Minister what concrete steps are being taken by the Government in Bihar, Bihar and in other parts of the country in this direction?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir whatever measures have been mentioned now, are all concrete steps. In Bihar problems exist not only in regard to this matter but in regard to other matters as well. We are making all efforts to solve problems wherever they exist.

SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has provided the list of the places where bottling plants have been installed. A glance at the list reveals that in a very large part of the country, the consumers do not get refills for 2-3 months because there are no bottling plants in that area. Will the Minister conduct any survey to identify the areas where bottling plants can be installed and these should be installed because demand for cooking gas is bound to increase day by day and it has to be met. As has been stated by an hon. Member from Bihar, in Gorakhpur, thousands of consumers are waiting to get their gas connections. What action is being taken in this regard?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I had said earlier, there is a great demand for cooking gas as fuel in the country today. Its popularity is also increasing. Our efforts are to supply it to the people as and when it is available and we are installing bottling plants wherever necessary. We are also meeting the demands of some areas through supplies

from other areas. In short, our Government is making efforts to fulfil the requirements of the people.

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir Rajasthan is a famine prone area. The main reason for it is deforestation. I want to submit that in Rajasthan, which is the second largest state in the country in terms of area, there has been considerable deforestation and our cosmonauts who want to space have testified that only 3 to 4 per cent of forests have been left in that region. In order to save those forests, will special consideration be given for the setting up of bottling plants there because gas is available at Jaisalmer? I want to request you that this problem should be solved so that our forests are saved. Hence will the hon. Minister pay special attention to Rajasthan.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Of course, we will do it.

[English]

Board of Directors of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited

*373. **SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the composition of the Board of Directors of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited; and

(b) the number of Directors on the Board belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DFV) : (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

Statement

Members, Board of Directors of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited.

1

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3

(a) 1. Secretary,
Department of Telecom.

Ex-officio

Part-time
Chairman.